NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS GEOTECHNICAL UNIT

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

SOIL AND ROCK LEGEND, TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

SOIL DESCRIPTION	GRADATION	ROCK DESCRIPTION	TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
SOIL IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE UNCONSOLIDATED, SEMI-CONSOLIDATED OR WEATHERED EARTH MATERIALS WHICH CAN BE PENETRATED WITH A CONTINUOUS FLIGHT POWER AUGER, AND WHICH YIELDS LESS THAN	WELL GRADED- INDICATES A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF PARTICLE SIZES FROM FINE TO COARSE UNIFORM- INDICATES THAT SOIL PARTICLES ARE ALL APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SIZE. (ALSO POORLY GRADED)	HARD ROCK IS NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL THAT WHEN TESTED, WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL, AN INFERRED ROCK LINE INDICATES THE LEVEL AT WHICH NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL. SPT REFUSAL IS PENETRATION BY A SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PER 80 BLOWS.	ALLUVIUM (ALLUV.) - SOILS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY WATER. AQUIFER - A WATER BEARING FORMATION OR STRATA.
100 BLOWS PER FOOT ACCORDING TO STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (AASHTO T206, ASTM D-1586). SOIL CLASSIFICATION IS BASED ON THE AASHTO SYSTEM AND BASIC DESCRIPTIONS GENERALLY SHALL INCLUDE:	GAP-GRADED- INDICATES A MIXTURE OF UNIFORM PARTICLES OF TWO OR MORE SIZES. ANGULARITY OF GRAINS	IN NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL, THE TRANSITION BETWEEN SOIL AND ROCK IS OFTEN REPRESENTED BY A ZONE OF WEATHERED ROCK.	ARENACEOUS - APPLIED TO ROCKS THAT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM SAND OR THAT CONTAIN SAND.
CONSISTENCY, COLOR, TEXTURE, MOISTURE, AASHTO CLASSIFICATION, AND OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS SUCH AS MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION, ANGULARITY, STRUCTURE, PLASTICITY, ETC. EXAMPLE:	THE ANGULARITY OR ROUNDNESS OF SOIL GRAINS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE TERMS; ANGULAR,	ROCK MATERIALS ARE TYPICALLY DIVIDED AS FOLOWS:	ARGILLACEOUS - APPLIED TO ALL ROCKS OR SUBSTANCES COMPOSED OF CLAY MINERALS,
VERY STIFF, GRAY SILTY CLAY, NOIST WITH INTERBEDOED FINE SAND LAVERS, HIGHLY PLASTIC, A-7-6	SUBANGULAR, SUBROUNDED, OR ROUNDED. MINERALOGICAL COMPOSITION	WEATHERED ROCK (WR) NON-COASTAL PLAIN MATERIAL THAT YIELDS SPT N VALUES > 100 BLOWS PER FOOT.	OR HAVING A NOTABLE PROPORTION OF CLAY IN THEIR COMPOSITION, AS SHALE, SLATE, ETC. ARTESIAN - GROUND WATER THAT IS UNDER SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO RISE ABOVE THE LEVEL
SOIL LEGEND AND AASHTO CLASSIFICATION GENERAL GRANULAR MATERIALS SILT-CLAY MATERIALS CLASS. (\$5% PASSING *200) (\$5% PASSING *200) ORGANIC MATERIALS	MINERAL NAMES SUCH AS QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, MICA, TALC, KAQLIN, ETC. ARE USED IN DESCRIPTIONS WHENEVER THEY ARE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE.	CRYSTALLINE ROCK (CR) FINE TO COARSE GRAIN IGNEOUS AND METAMORPHIC ROCK THAT WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL IF TESTED, ROCK TYPE INCLUDES GRANITE, GNEISS, GABBRO, SCHIST, ETC.	AT WHICH IS IS ENCOUNTERED, BUT WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RISE TO OR ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE. [CALCAREOUS (CALC.) - SOILS WHICH CONTAIN APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM CARBONATE.
GROUP A-1 A-3 A-2 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-1, A-2 A-4, A-5	COMPRESSIBILITY	NON-CRYSTALLINE FINE TO COARSE GRAIN METAMORPHIC AND NON-COASTAL PLAIN	COLLUVIUM - ROCK FRAGMENTS MIXED WITH SOIL DEPOSITED BY GRAVITY ON SLOPE OR AT BOTTOM
CLASS. A-1-a A-1-b A-2-4 A-2-5 A-2-6 A-2-7 A-7-5 A-3 A-6, A-7	SLIGHTLY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT LESS THAN 30	NOCK (NCR) INCLUDES PHYLLITE, SLATE, SANDSTONE, ETC.	OF SLOPE.
SYMBOL 000000000000000000000000000000000000	MODERATELY COMPRESSIBLE LIQUID LIMIT 31-50 LIQUID LIMIT GREATER THAN 50 PERCENTAGE OF MATERIAL	COASTAL PLAIN COASTAL PLAIN SEDIMENTS CEMENTED INTO ROCK, BUT MAY NOT YIELD SEDIMENTARY ROCK SPT REFUSAL ROCK TYPE INCLUDES LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, CEMENTED (CP) SHELL BEDS, ETC.	CORE RECOVERY (REC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF ALL MATERIAL RECOVERED IN THE CORE BARREL DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
% PASSING 10 50 MX GRANULAR CLAY GRANULAR CLAY	OPCONIC MOTERIAL GRANULAR SILT- CLAY	WEATHERING	DIKE - A TABULAR BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK THAT CUTS ACROSS THE STRUCTURE OF ADJACENT ROCKS OR CUTS MASSIVE ROCK.
# 40 30 MX50 MX51 MN PEAT SOILS SOILS PEAT S	TRACE OF ORGANIC MATTER 2 - 3% 3 - 5% TRACE 1 - 10%	FRESH ROCK FRESH, CRYSTALS BRIGHT, FEW JOINTS MAY SHOW SLIGHT STAINING, ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER IF CRYSTALLINE.	DIP - THE ANGLE AT WHICH A STRATUM OR ANY PLANAR FEATURE IS INCLINED FROM THE HORIZONTAL.
LIQUID LIMIT PLASTIC BUBEX 6 MX N.P. 18 MX 14 MN 48 MX 41 MN 18 MX 11 MN 11 MN 11 MN LITTLE OR HIGHLY	LITTLE ORGANIC MATTER 3 - 5% 5 - 12% LITTLE 10 - 20% MODERATELY ORGANIC 5 - 10% 12 - 20% SOME 20 - 35%, HIGHLY ORGANIC >10% >20% HIGHLY ORGANIC >35% AND ABOVE	VERY SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED, SOME JOINTS MAY SHOW THIN CLAY COATINGS IF OPEN, (V. SLI.) CRYSTALS ON A BROKEN SPECIMEN FACE SHINE BRIGHTLY. ROCK RINGS UNDER HAMMER BLOWS IF OF A CRYSTALLINE NATURE,	DIP DIRECTION (DIP AZIMUTH) - THE DIRECTION OR BEARING OF THE HORIZONTAL TRACE OF THE LINE OF DIP, MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM NORTH.
GROUP INDEX 0 0 0 4 MX 8 MX 12 MX 16 MX No MX MODERATE AMOUNTS OF SOILS	GROUND WATER ✓ WATER LEVEL IN BORE HOLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRILLING.	SLIGHT ROCK GENERALLY FRESH, JOINTS STAINED AND DISCOLORATION EXTENDS INTO ROCK UP TO (SLI) 1 INCH, OPEN JOINTS MAY CONTAIN CLAY. IN GRANITOID ROCKS SOME OCCASIONAL FELDSPAR	FAULT - A FRACTURE OR FRACTURE ZONE ALONG WHICH THERE HAS BEEN DISPLACEMENT OF THE SIDES RELATIVE TO ONE ANOTHER PARALLEL TO THE FRACTURE.
OF MAJOR GRAVEL AND SAND SAND SOILS SOILS MATTER	STATIC WATER LEVEL AFTER 24 HOURS.	CRYSTALS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED. CRYSTALLINE ROCKS RING UNDER HAMMER BLOWS. MODERATE SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF ROCK SHOW DISCOLORATION AND WEATHERING EFFECTS. IN	FISSILE - A PROPERTY OF SPLITTING ALONG CLOSELY SPACED PARALLEL PLANES. FLOAT - ROCK FRAGMENTS ON SURFACE NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION AND DISLODGED FROM
GEN_RATING AS A EXCELLENT TO GOOD FAIR TO POOR POOR UNSUITABLE	$rac{ abla_{ extsf{PW}}}{ abla_{ extsf{PW}}}$ perched water, saturated zone or water bearing strata	(MOD.) GRANITOID ROCKS, MOST FELDSPARS ARE DULL AND DISCOLORED, SOME SHOW CLAY, ROCK HAS DULL SOUND UNDER HAMMER BLOWS AND SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF STRENGTH AS COMPARED	PARENT MATERIAL.
SUBGRADE	SPRING OR SEEPAGE	WITH FRESH ROCK.	FLOOD PLAIN (F.P.) - LAND BORDERING A STREAM, BUILT OF SEDIMENTS DEPOSITED BY THE STREAM,
P.I. 0F A-7-5 ≤ L.L 30 : P.I. 0F A-7-6 > L.L 30 CONSISTENCY OR DENSENESS	MISCELLANEOUS SYMBOLS	MODERATELY ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED. IN GRANITOID ROCKS, ALL FELDSPARS DULL SEVERE AND DISCOLORED AND A MAJORITY SHOW KAOLINIZATION. ROCK SHOWS SEVERE LOSS OF STRENGTH	FORMATION (FM.) - A MAPPABLE GEOLOGIC UNIT THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED AND TRACED IN
PRIMARY SOIL TYPE COMPACTNESS OR RANGE OF STANDARD RANGE OF UNCONFINED PENETRATION RESISTENCE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH	ROADWAY EMBANKMENT SPT CPT DOT TEST BORING SAMPLE	(MOD. SEV.) AND CAN BE EXCAVATED WITH A GEOLOGIST'S PICK. ROCK GIVES 'CLUNK' SOUND WHEN STRUCK. IF TESTED, WOULD YIELD SPT REFUSAL	THE FIELD. JOINT - FRACTURE IN ROCK ALONG WHICH NO APPRECIABLE MOVEMENT HAS OCCURRED.
VERY LOSE	AUCED DODAY	SEVERE ALL ROCKS EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED. ROCK FABRIC CLEAR AND EVIDENT BUT REDUCED (SEV.) IN STRENGTH TO STRONG SOIL. IN GRANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS ARE KAOLINIZED TO SOME	LEDGE - A SHELF-LIKE RIDGE OR PROJECTION OF ROCK WHOSE THICKNESS IS SMALL COMPARED TO
GRANULAR MEDIUM DENISE 4 TO 10	SOIL SYMBOL AUGER BORING S- BULK SAMPLE	(SEV.) IN STRENGTH TO STRONG SOIL. IN GRANITOID ROCKS ALL FELDSPARS ARE KAOLINIZED TO SOME EXTENT. SOME FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK USUALLY REMAIN. IF TESTED, YIELDS SPT N VALUES > 100 BPF	ITS LATERAL EXTENT. LENS - A BODY OF SOIL OR ROCK THAT THINS OUT IN ONE OR MORE DIRECTIONS.
MATERIAL DENSE 10 TO 30 (NON-COHESIVE) DENSE 30 TO 50	ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN ROADWAY EMBANKMENTS ARTIFICIAL FILL OTHER THAN CORE BORING SS- SPLIT SPOON SAMPLE	VERY SEVERE ALL ROCK EXCEPT QUARTZ DISCOLORED OR STAINED, ROCK FABRIC ELEMENTS ARE DISCERNIBLE BUT	MOTTLED (MOT.) - IRREGULARLY MARKED WITH SPOTS OF DIFFERENT COLORS. MOTTLING IN
VERY DENSE >50	ST- SHELBY TUBE ST- SHELBY TUBE SAMPLE SAMPLE	(V, SEV.) THE MASS IS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED TO SOIL STATUS, WITH ONLY FRAGMENTS OF STRONG ROCK REMAINING, SAPROLITE IS AN EXAMPLE OF ROCK WEATHERED TO A DEGREE SUCH THAT ONLY MINOR	SOILS USUALLY INDICATES POOR AERATION AND LACK OF GOOD DRAINAGE. PERCHED WATER - WATER MAINTAINED ABOVE THE NORMAL GROUND WATER LEVEL BY THE PRESENCE OF AN
GENERALLY SOFT 2 TO 4 0.25 TO 0.5	MONITORING WELL SHIPLE INFERRED ROCK LINE PIEZOMETER RS- ROCK SAMPLE	VESTIGES OF THE ORIGINAL ROCK FABRIC REMAIN. IF TESTED, VIELDS SPT N VALUES < 180 BPF	INTERVENING IMPERVIOUS STRATUM.
SILT-CLAY MEDIUM STIFF 4 TO 8 0.5 TO 1 MATERIAL STIFF 8 TO 15 1 TO 2	TTTTT ALLUVIAL SOIL BOUNDARY INSTALLATION RT- RECOMPACTED	COMPLETE ROCK REDUCED TO SOIL, ROCK FABRIC NOT DISCERNIBLE, OR DISCERNIBLE ONLY IN SMALL AND SCATTERED CONCENTRATIONS. QUARTZ MAY BE PRESENT AS DIKES OR STRINGERS, SAPROLITE IS	RESIDUAL SOIL - SOIL FORMED IN PLACE BY THE WEATHERING OF ROCK.
(COHESIVE) VERY STIFF 15 TO 30 2 TO 4 HARD >30 >4	SLOPE INDICATOR TRIAXIAL SAMPLE 25/025 DIP/DIP DIRECTION OF INSTALLATION CBR - CBR SAMPLE	ALSO AN EXAMPLE. ROCK HARDNESS	ROCK DUALITY DESIGNATION (R.Q.D.) - A MEASURE OF ROCK QUALITY DESCRIBED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF ROCK SEGMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 4 INCHES DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL LENGTH OF CORE RUN AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
TEXTURE OR GRAIN SIZE	ROCK STRUCTURES SPT N-VALUE - SQUINDING ROD	VERY HARD CANNOT BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR SHARP PICK, BREAKING OF HAND SPECIMENS REQUIRES	SAPROLITE (SAP.) - RESIDUAL SOIL WHICH RETAINS THE RELIC STRUCTURE OR FABRIC OF THE
U.S. STD. SIEVE SIZE 4 10 40 60 200 270 OPENING (MM) 4.76 2.0 0.42 0.25 0.075 0.053	SOUNDING ROD SPT REFUSAL ABBREVIATIONS	SEVERAL HARD BLOWS OF THE GEOLOGISTS PICK. HARD CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY. HARD HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED	PARENT ROCK. SILL - AN INTRUSIVE BODY OF IGNEOUS ROCK OF APPROXIMATELY UNIFORM THICKNESS AND
BOULDER COBBLE GRAVEL COARSE FINE SILT CLAY	ABBRE VIATIONS AR - AUGER REFUSAL PMT - PRESSUREMETER TEST	TO DETACH HAND SPECIMEN. MODERATELY CAN BE SCRATCHED BY KNIFE OR PICK, GOUGES OR GROOVES TO 0.25 INCHES DEEP CAN BE	RELATIVELY THIN COMPARED WITH ITS LATERAL EXTENT, WHICH HAS BEEN EMPLACED PARALLEL TO THE BEDDING OR SCHISTOSITY OF THE INTRUDED ROCKS
(BLDR.) (COB.) (GR.) (CSE. SD.) (F. SD.) (SL.) (CL.) GRAIN MM 305 75 2.0 0.25 0.005	BT - BORING TERMINATED SD SANDY CL CLAY SL SILTY	HARD EXCAVATED BY HARD BLOW OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK, HAND SPECIMENS CAN BE DETACHED BY MODERATE BLOWS.	SLICKENSIDE - POLISHED AND STRIATED SURFACE THAT RESULTS FROM FRICTION ALONG A FAULT OR SLIP PLANE.
SIZE IN. 12" 3"	CPT - CONE PENETRATION TEST SLI SLIGHTLY CSE COARSE TCR - TRICONE REFUSAL	MEDIUM CAN BE GROOVED OR GOUGED 0.05 INCHES DEEP BY FIRM PRESSURE OF KNIFE OR PICK POINT. HARD CAN BE EXCAVATED IN SMALL CHIPS TO PEICES I INCH MAXIMUM SIZE BY HARD BLOWS OF THE	STANDARD PENETRATION TEST (PENETRATION RESISTANCE) (SPT) - NUMBER OF BLOWS (N OR B.P.F.) OF A 140 LB. HAMMER FALLING 30 INCHES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PENETRATION OF 1 FOOT INTO SOIL WITH
SOIL MOISTURE - CORRELATION OF TERMS SOIL MOISTURE SCALE FIELD MOISTURE COURT FOR STEED MOISTURE PROCEDURATION	DMT - DILATOMETER TEST γ - UNIT WEIGHT DPT - DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST γ_d - DRY UNIT WEIGHT	POINT OF A GEOLOGISTS PICK.	A 2 INCH OUTSIDE DIAMETER SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER, SPT REFUSAL IS LESS THAN 0.1 FOOT PENETRATION WITH 60 BLOWS.
(ATTERBERG LIMITS) DESCRIPTION GUIDE FOR FIELD MOISTURE DESCRIPTION	e - VOID RATIO /d - UNIT WEIGHT F FINE W - MOISTURE CONTENT FOSS, - FOSSILIFEROUS V VERY	SOFT CAN BE GROVED OR GOUGED READILY BY KNIFE OR PICK. CAN BE EXCAVATED IN FRAGMENTS FROM CHIPS TO SEVERAL INCHES IN SIZE BY MODERATE BLOWS OF A PICK POINT. SMALL, THIN PIECES CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE.	STRATA CORE RECOVERY (SREC.) - TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA MATERIAL RECOVERED DIVIDED BY TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATUM AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE.
- SATURATED - USUALLY LIQUID; VERY WET, USUALLY (SAT.) FROM BELOW THE GROUND WATER TABLE	FRAC FRACTURED VST - VANE SHEAR TEST FRAGS FRAGMENTS	VERY CAN BE CARVED WITH KNIFE, CAN BE EXCAVATED READILY WITH POINT OF PICK, PIECES 1 INCH	STRATA ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (S.R.O.D.) - A MEASURE OF ROCK QUALITY DESCRIBED BY: TOTAL LENGTH OF ROCK SEGMENTS WITHIN A STRATUM EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 4 INCHES DIVIDED BY THE
LL LIQUID LIMIT PLASTIC SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO SAMPLE CONTROL TO SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO SAMPLE CONTROL TO SEMISOLID; REQUIRES DRYING TO SAMPLE CONTROL TO SAMPL	MED MEDIUM	SOFT OR MORE IN THICKNESS CAN BE BROKEN BY FINGER PRESSURE. CAN BE SCRATCHED READILY BY FINGERNALL.	TOTAL LENGTH OF STRATA AND EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE. TOPSOIL (T.S.) - SURFACE SOILS USUALLY CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER.
RANGE - WET - (W) ATTAIN OPTIMUM MOISTURE	EQUIPMENT USED ON SUBJECT PROJECT	FRACTURE SPACING BEDDING TERM SPACING IERM THICKNESS	
MOTOT (A) SON ID AT OR NEAD ORTIMIN MOTOTURE	DRILL UNITS: ADVANCING TOOLS: HAMMER TYPE: AUTOMATIC MANUAL AUTOMATIC MANUAL	VERY WIDE MORE THAN 10 FEET VERY THICKLY BEDDED > 4 FEET	BENCH MARK:
OM OPTIMUM MOISTURE - MOIST - (M) SULID; AT OR NEAR OPTIMUM MOISTURE SL SHRINKAGE LIMIT	MOBILE B-	MIDE 3 10 10 FEET THINLY BEDDED 0.16 - 1.5 FEET	ELEVATION:
REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER TO	6° CONTINUOUS FLIGHT AUGER CORE SIZE:	CLOSE 0.16 TO 1 FEET VERY THINLY BEDDED 0.03 - 0.16 FEET THICKLY LAMINATED 0.008 - 0.03 FEET	NOTES:
HITHIN OFTENDE PIOLSTONE	- TO HOLLOW HOUSENS	THINLY LAMINATED (0.008 FEET INDURATION	, and the second
PLASTICITY PLASTICITY INDEX (PI) DRY STRENGTH	CME-45 HARD FACED FINGER BITS	FOR SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, INDURATION IS THE HARDENING OF THE MATERIAL BY CEMENTING, HEAT, PRESSURE, ETC.	
NONPLASTIC . 0-5 VERY LOW	TUNGCARBIDE INSERTS CASING W/ ADVANCER	FRIABLE RUBBING WITH FINGER FREES NUMEROUS GRAINS;	
LOW PLASTICITY 6-15 SLIGHT MED. PLASTICITY 16-25 MEDIUM	CASING W/ ADVANCER HAND TOOLS:	GENTLE BLOW BY HAMMER DISINTEGRATES SAMPLE.	
HIGH PLASTICITY 26 OR MORE HIGH	TINGCARR. HAND AUGER	MODERATELY INDURATED WAS EASILY WHEN HIT WITH HAMMER.	
COLOR	OTHER CORE BIT SOUNDING ROD	INDURATED GRAINS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE WITH STEEL PROBE; DIFFICULT TO BREAK WITH HAMMER.	
DESCRIPTIONS MAY INCLUDE COLOR OR COLOR COMBINATIONS (TAN, RED, YEL-BRN, BLUE-GRAY) MODIFIERS SUCH AS LIGHT, DARK, STREAKED, ETC. ARE USED TO DESCRIBE APPEARANCE.	OTHER OTHER VANE SHEAR TEST	EXTREMELY INDURATED SHARP HAMMER BLOWS REQUIRED TO BREAK SAMPLE;	
	OTHER	SAMPLE BREAKS ACROSS GRAINS.	<u> </u>
			REVISED 09/15/00